

Los Angeles International Airport

Airport Address

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Air Cargo Contact

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Located near the Pacific coastline about 15 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is by far the busiest air cargo airport in the state with an extensive air cargo handling network. It is an international gateway and one of three active airports owned and operated by Los Angeles (LA) World Airports. The others are LA/Ontario International and Van Nuys (general aviation).

OPERATIONS

LAX's bustling facility handles many types of domestic and international cargo during their 24/7 operation. More than 1,000 cargo flights depart and arrive daily. Shippers have a broad base of airlines to choose from because every major international air carrier serving the Pacific calls at LAX.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- LAX is able to provide all types of domestic and international cargo services.
- LAX has 2.1 million square-feet devoted to air cargo on 194 acres (with an additional four million square-feet developed for cargo use in the immediate vicinity).
- The air cargo handling network consists of over 88 passenger and all-cargo airlines combined.
- United Airlines, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Asiana Airlines, and Qantas have opened large air cargo buildings at the airport's Century Cargo Complex.
- FedEx is the single largest cargo carrier at LAX.
- The Imperial Cargo Complex is home to a U.S. Customs headquarters, adding convenience for shippers, forwarders, and airlines.
- In the airport vicinity, more than 400 freight forwarders and over 100 customs house brokers are available to expedite air cargo.
- A Foreign Trade Zone exists within LAX.

AIRPORT TRADE CHARACTERISTICS

- Over 50 percent of air cargo activity is international in origin or destination.
- More than half of LAX air cargo is transported in the bellies of passenger aircraft, allowing airlines to offer lower airfares to travelers.



- Japan accepts over 70,033 tons of LAX's exports annually, valued at \$4.1 billion, and China leads all nations in importing through LAX.
- Asia-Pacific is Los Angeles' top regional trading partner with 582,283 tons annually, valued at \$45.2 Billion.
- The most exported air commodities by weight are vegetables, fruit, and nuts, with 15.1 percent of the total tonnage.
- Apparel is the top imported air cargo commodity, followed by computer equipment, audio and video media, and fish.
- Consular offices from 76 nations, trading offices from 33 countries, and 35 foreign Chambers of Commerce assist with the high volume of trade.

- The role of major California airports, like LAX and San Francisco International, as gateways for Asian export and import cargo has been permanently diminished due to bypassing of the State by longer-range aircraft which now directly connect interior U.S. cities with overseas origins and destinations.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TRUCKING

Primary North-South Routes

- I-405, I-110, and SR 1

Primary East-West Routes

- I-105 and I-10

From this site, nearby connections with intrastate and transcontinental routes exist.

SEAPORTS AND RAIL LINE ACCESS

- Excellent surface connections are available for secondary shipment of goods including two seaports (Los Angeles and Long Beach) and railroads [Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)] which provide transportation throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- According to the Capital Improvement Plan, several taxi lane, apron, and runway safety area improvement projects are planned for LAX over the next few years.
- Century Cargo Complex improvement projects continue.
- Improvements needed along the SR 405 and US 101 truck routes have been identified.

OTHER AIRPORT FACTS

- Carrying 1,853,659 tons in 2011, LAX ranked as the 5th top North American airport in total cargo traffic by the North America Airports Council International.
- In 2010, air cargo at LAX was valued at nearly \$77 billion.
- An estimated 79 percent of the region's air cargo is handled through LAX.
- American and United Airlines, which rank fourth and sixth respectively among LAX's air freight carriers, are dominant in mail carried.
- LAX is responsible for more than \$68 billion of the greater LA region's international export and import trade total (valued at \$200 billion).

- With Southern California region air cargo expected to triple over the next 25 years, LAX will continue to be the center of airfreight activity for the Pacific Rim and Europe.

CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES

- As one of ten airports statewide determined to have noise impacts, noise abatement procedures exist at LAX for mitigation purposes.
- The Los Angeles and Ventura County areas have five of the ten worst truck bottlenecks in the U.S.
- Southern California's aging transportation infrastructure is at capacity with limited funding for expansion and repairs.

CALTRANS FOCUS AREAS

- Improve cargo access to and from LAX.
- Implement ways to alleviate highway bottlenecks and improve pavement conditions along truck routes.
- Plan for handling sea level rise to ensure freight accessibility.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PARTNERS

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), <http://www.aqmd.gov/>

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG): <http://www.scag.ca.gov/rtp2008/index.htm>

SOURCES

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